

September 9, 2021

At the Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held in the USW Local 507 Building September 9, 2021, at 6:30pm with Mayor Smathers, Alderman/Alderwomen Mull, Smith and Shepard present the following proceedings were held.

A. Call to Order

Mayor Smathers called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Smathers reported that the Manager, Town Clerk, and Town Attorney were present. Mayor Smathers stated that Alderman Hamlett would not be in attendance due to a family members illness.

D. Invocation/Pledge

Alderman Shepard led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. Approval of the Minutes: August 22, 26, and 30th, 2021

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the August 22, 26 and August 30, 2021, minutes as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that the FEMA declaration was huge for those affected by the flood and that hopefully the Town will be back stronger than ever with FEMA, State, and Local support.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Shepard thanked Manager Scheuer for promptly dealing with several Citizen issues. Alderman Shepard also encouraged everyone to make sure they follow all FEMA guidelines.

Alderwoman Smith thanked staff for all their hard work and all the efforts from the Executive Branch to the Local Government in their efforts to get FEMA aid to the people of Haywood County.

Mayor Smathers thanked Alderwoman Mull and the Local 507

for allowing the Town of Canton to use their facilities to hold the Board meetings.

Mayor Smathers inquired if BH Graning was still under contract and if they would continue with the beautification for the fall? Manager Scheuer stated that they would, and they would be changing out in the next couple of weeks.

G. Public Comments

Mr. Roland Osborne inquired if everyone was still locked out of Town facilities? Manager Scheuer stated that until the cleaning process and testing in the next couple of weeks everyone was still locked out of all facilities.

Mr. Howard Knepper thanked Mayor Smathers and the Aldermen and women for a great job during these adverse conditions. Mr. Knepper thanked Manager Scheuer and Assistant Stinnett for always doing a good job and responding to needs in a timely manner.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Scheuer stated that he should be able to provide an up-to-date cash report at the next meeting as computers and software were currently being updated and could be utilized by staff.

Manager Scheuer stated that the FEMA declaration would be an amazing tool to help with the flood recovery process and help to alleviate some of the financial woes for numerous affected people. Manager Scheuer stated that it had been difficult with the waiting during the last couple of weeks, but he understood the process and hopefully progress could soon be put into motion. Mayor Smathers asked if he could clarify the debris removal process for businesses. Manager Scheuer stated that the debris contract was for the Town of Canton and residential customers. Business owners should have debris removal coverage through their flood insurance coverage. Manager Scheuer stated that the long-term goal would be to get enough assistance to relocate or elevate a building on the current lot to prevent having to relive this catastrophic loss again in the future. Mayor Smathers stated that at this point nothing was off the table and all avenues should be explored before moving forward with renovations. Mayor Smathers asked that when more information was available that a work session be scheduled for the board to be able to learn and decide what the best way forward would look like. Alderwoman Smith asked about the bank restoration down 1923 at Chestnut Park. Manager Scheuer stated that Haywood Waterways had applied

for a grant and that they would be spearheading the bank restoration project in that area.

Mayor Smathers stated that he had been approached by several people such as Balsam Range and Smoky Mountain News to put on a benefit concert in Sorrells Street Park to benefit the flood relief in Haywood County. Manager Scheuer stated that the two options would be either a co-sponsorship or a special event application which would go to the Board for approval due to the request to serve alcohol. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve the event pending all documentation required be received before the benefit only providing the space for free and traffic control. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Alderwoman Smith asked for clarification to the difference between the two policies. Manager Scheuer stated that with the co-sponsorship the rental fee for the park could be waived and the Special Event Policy they would have to pay a \$200.00 rental fee, but both would require Board approval because of the alcohol sales. After a brief discussion, all members voted in favor to approve a Co-sponsorship providing traffic control and rental fee waiver pending all insurance and other required documentation being provided.

I. New Business

1. Proclamation: Constitution Week

Mayor Smathers presented a Proclamation to declare Constitution Week September 17th through September 23rd. Mayor Smathers stated in honor of Alderman Hamlett he would refrain from reading it aloud as Alderman Hamlett always had a presentation on the Constitution. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the Proclamation as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Paving Award

Manager Scheuer presented the bid award contract for Custom Paving (see attached). Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the bid award as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Community Promotion Request

Manager Scheuer presented a request from BearWaters Brewing to help sponsor t-shirts to be sold to help benefit the flood relief program (see attached). Alderwoman Mull made a

motion to approve a \$250 dollar sponsorship as requested. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

L. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. at the Local 507 Union Hall. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk